



The Diviners

by Jim Leonard, Jr.

December 3, 5, 11, 12 8 p.m.

December 6 2 p.m.

Linda Van Polen, guest director

Steve A. Walker, scenic and lighting design

Jo Marie Dugan, costume design



PARKLAND COLLEGE CULTURAL CENTER

Cast of Characters

Buddy Layman, a dowsler Steven Day
Jennie Mae Layman, his sister Beth DeHoff
Ferris Layman, their father, a mechanic Robert Picklesimer
C.C. Showers, a backsliding preacher Curt Waltermire
Norma Henshaw, owner of the Hoosier Dry-Goods ... Patti Good
Darlene Henshaw, her niece Amy Craig
Goldie Short, owner of the Dine-Away-Cafe Chris Stefan
Basil Bennett, a farmer, a local doctor of sorts ... John Cummins
Luella Bennett, his wife, a doubter Deborah Dougherty
Penny Wilson-Hillig
Melvin Wilder, a farmhand Phil Strang
Dewey Maples, a farmhand Barry Bridgeford

Setting

The play takes place in the homes, fields, and public gathering places of the mythical southern Indiana town of Zion (population 40), a small and rural community with a few houses and farms along the river.

Time

During the depression, the Hoover years. Summer.

Author's Note

These are good and simple people. They have nothing but the best of intentions.

Director's Note:

A definition of *divining*: A search for hidden resources necessary to survival.

Presented by arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Biographies

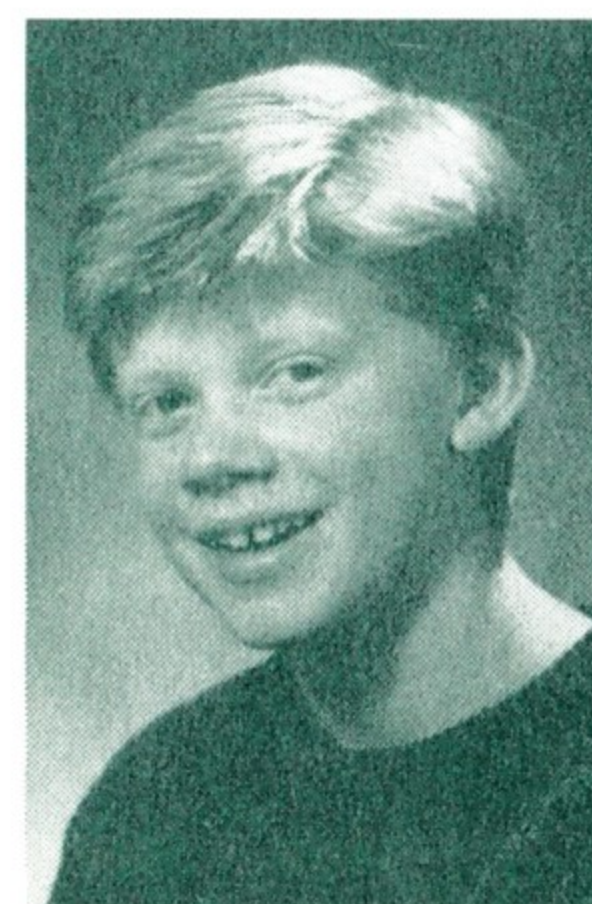
Linda Van Polen (Guest Director)

Originally from Napa, California, Linda came to Champaign-Urbana in 1980 to serve as artistic coordinator of the Sunshine Dinner Playhouse. There she directed, acted, designed, and stage managed many musicals and comedies. After receiving her MFA in acting from the University of Illinois in 1985, she performed with several professional theatre companies including the Mule Barn Summer Stock Theatre, The Nebraska Theatre Caravan, and the Kentucky Shakespeare Festival. She returns to this area to study the Alexander Technique and currently freelances as an actress and director for the local theatres.



Steven Day (Buddy)

Steven was most recently seen in *Our Town* for the Illinois Repertory Theatre and in *Cheaper by the Dozen* at the Sunshine Dinner Playhouse. A 7th grade student at Champaign's Columbia Middle School, Steven has studied in Parkland's College for Kids program. He enjoys acting, playing the drums, and sports.



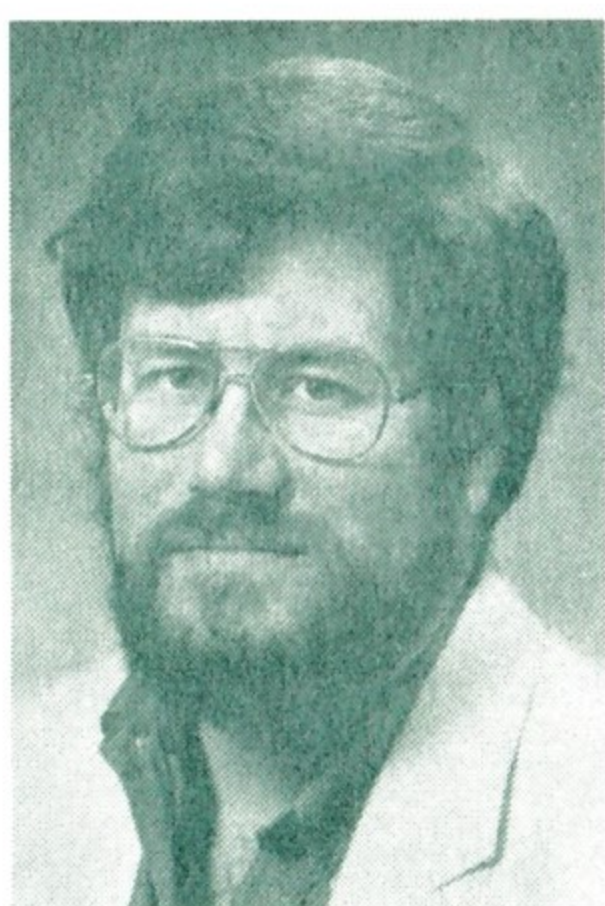
Beth Ann DeHoff (Jennie)

Beth is a public relations specialist at Burnham Hospital. Born and raised in Kendallville, Indiana, she now resides in Champaign with her husband, Brad, and their two cats.

Beth received her bachelor's degree in journalism with a minor in theatre and drama from Indiana University in 1986. She has acted high school and in college and community theatre, appearing in *Butterflies Are Free*, *Count Dracula*, *You Can't Take It With You*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace*.

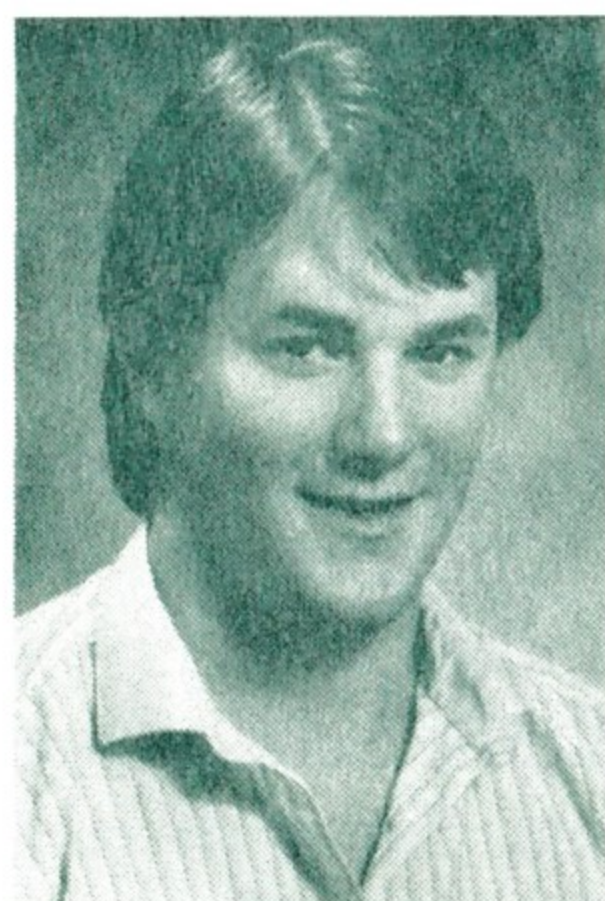
She enjoys writing, acting and water sports.





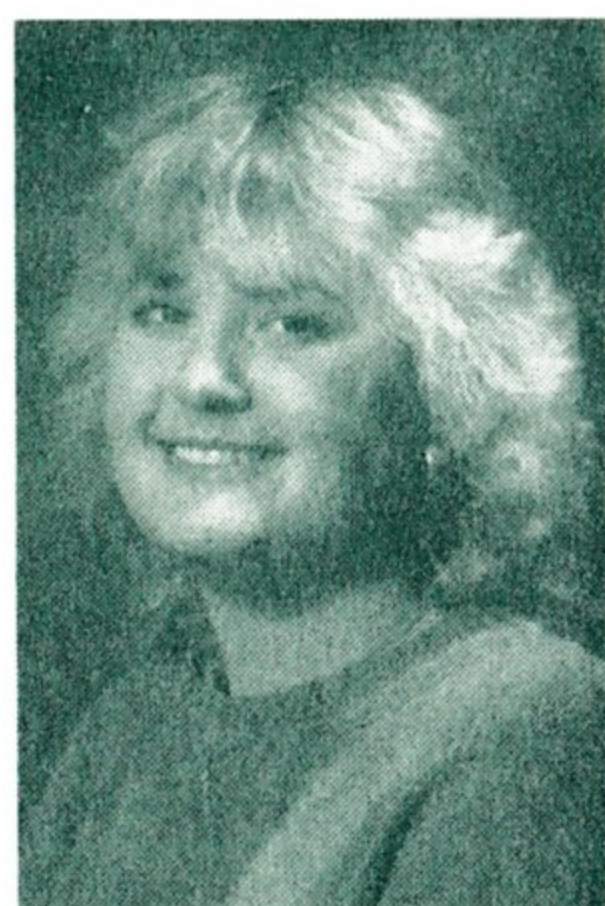
Robert Picklesimer (Ferris)

Robert graduated from Rockford College and performed with the Brownbrick Repertory Company there in the early '70s. At Idaho State University he performed in numerous shows including *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hedda Gabler*, *Three Sisters*, *The Rivals*, *Medea*, *An Interview with F. Scott Fitzgerald*, and *Bedroom Farce*. He was most recently seen as "Frank" in *Balm at Gilead* at Urbana's Station Theatre, where he will soon appear in *Glengary Glen Ross*. Robert also works as a director and lighting designer and is currently assistant directing the first production of the Paxton Community Theatre.



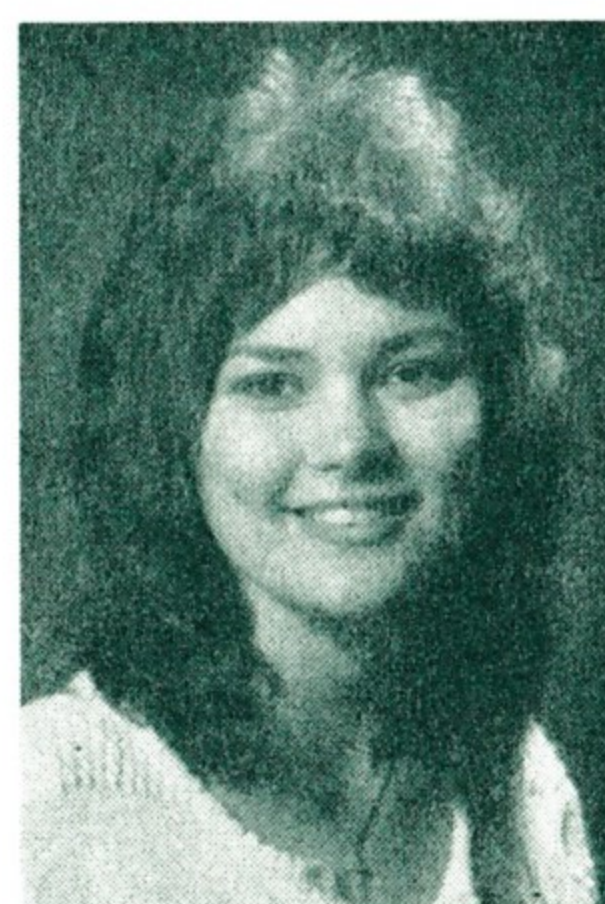
Curt Waltermire (C.C.)

Curt is a Parkland liberal arts student originally from St. Joseph, Illinois. He has appeared on stage at Parkland in *Kitchy Kitchy Koo* and *Futures*. While his studies focus on theatre, he hopes to pursue a career as a master illusionist and magician.



Patti Good (Norma)

Patti graduated from Parkland in 1987 with a degree in broadcasting communications. This is Patti's thirteenth play, her fifth at Parkland. She has appeared in *Harvey*, *The Mousetrap* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Currently employed at K104 FM/radio, she hopes to continue in radio and earn a degree in acting.



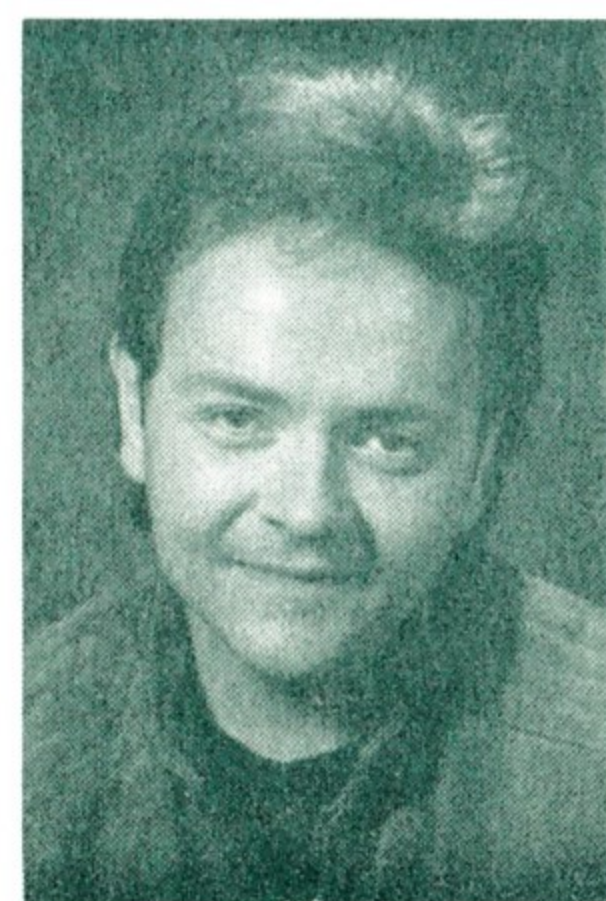
Amy Craig (Darlene)

A first-year student at Parkland College, Amy graduated from Monticello High School where she actively participated on the the speech team and as an actor and director in student theatre productions. She loves playing the piano and collects shoes and porcelain dolls.



Chris Stefan (Goldie)

Chris has been involved in theatre, studying, and performing for the past four years. Her favorite roles include "Edna Louise" in *Come Back to the 5 and Dime*, *Jimmy Dean*, *Jimmy Dean* at the Station Theatre and the title role in *Ex-Miss Copper Queen on a Set of Pills* at the Armory Free Theatre. In her spare time, Chris enjoys reading, writing, and playing with her cats.



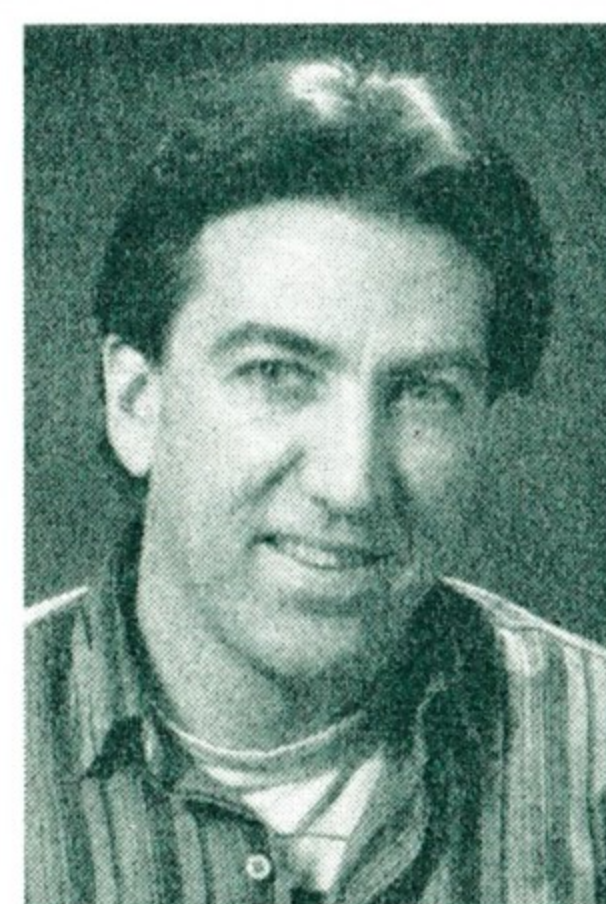
John Cummins (Basil)

John is a communications/broadcasting student at Parkland. His acting credits include *Hamlet*, *Re-vamped . . .* and *The Death and Life of Sneaky Fitch*. John's other hobbies include creative writing and volunteer work.



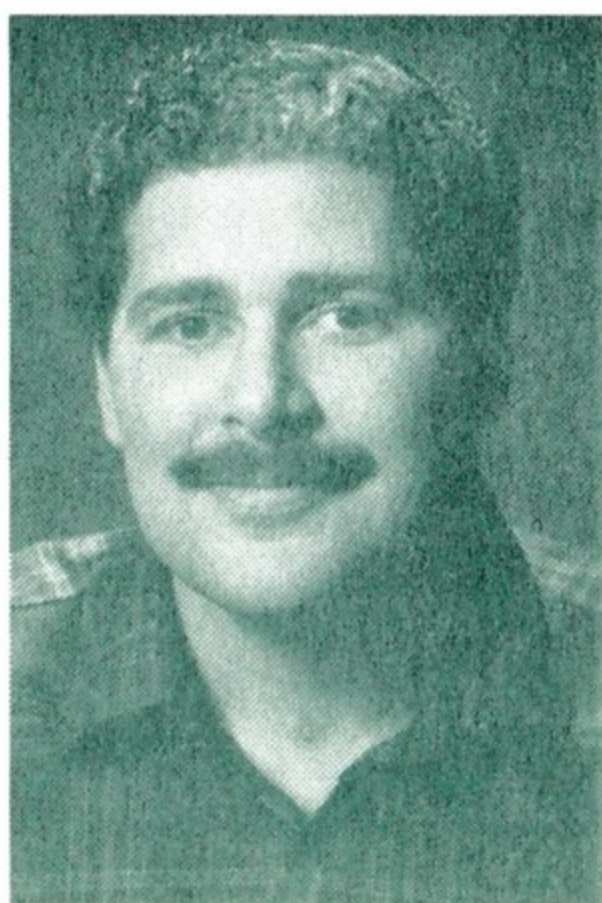
Deborah Dougherty (Luella)

Making her second appearance with the Parkland College Theatre, Deborah was previously in *Hamlet*, *Re-vamped . . .* An occupational therapist for the Urbana Schools, she attended Blackburn College and Eastern Illinois University and was active in theatre and music at both schools. She obtained her master's degree from the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, in 1983. In her spare time she enjoys camping, hiking, canoeing, singing, crocheting, and eating.



Phil Strang (Melvin)

Phil has been involved in local theatre for the past seven years. After growing up in New York City, he came to Champaign and earned a B.S. in communications from the University of Illinois. Some of his favorite roles have been "Riff" in *West Side Story*, "Lee" in *True West*, "Don Pedro" in *Much Ado About Nothing* and "Bob" in *Balm in Gilead*. His most enjoyable theatrical experience was directing *Ex-Miss Copper Queen on a Set of Pills* at the Armory Free Theatre. In January 1988 he will be appearing at the Station Theatre, Urbana, as "Moss" in *Glengary Glen Ross*. Phil's hobbies include softball, songwriting, Dungeons and Dragons and play-by-mail games.



Barry Bridgeford (Dewey)

The Diviners represents Barry's official acting debut. He has studied with the director, Linda Van Polen, in a summer Communiversity acting class. Barry enjoys cooking, bicycling, and people.

Penny Wilson-Hillig (Luella)

Penny is currently employed as an activity director in social services at a local nursing home. Her performance credits include *The Music Man*, *Pal Joey*, and *Fiddler On The Roof*. She studied acting with Linda Van Polen through the Communiversity program.

Production Staff

Assistant Publicity	Jane Andrew
Stage Manager	Joseph Bermes
Sound Design	David Wayne Kasten
Music Composition	Tim Schirmer
Properties	Jo Marie Dugan
Assistant Stage Manager	Wanda Watson
Light Crew	Partrick Alex, Ron Burek, Linda Clark
Construction Crew	Paul Sadowski, Ted Coyne, Carl Groves, Curt Waltermire, Linda Clark

Acknowledgements

Sunshine Dinner Playhouse

Theatre Staff

Theatre Manager	Randi Jennifer Collins Hard
Technical Director	Steve A. Walker
Assistant Technical Director	David Wayne Kasten
Costume Shop Manager	Jo Marie Dugan
Cultural Center Secretary	Mary Margaret Nicholas

Tickets

All seats for theatre events are available by reservation. The theatre ticket office is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and two hours prior to each performance. Telephone reservations may be made by calling 217/351-1076 during our regular ticket office hours.

Discount prices are available to all students, including school children, to patrons over age 65, and to organized groups of 20 or more. Inquire about special discount rates by calling the ticket office, 217/351-1076.

Parking

Parking lots B4 and C1 are adjacent to the Cultural Center. The circular drive located at the entrance to the Cultural Center may be used for your convenience prior to parking.

House Policies

Taking photographs or using recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited. Please check cameras and tape recorders at the lobby ticket office prior to entering the theatre.

In consideration of our seated patrons and performers, latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.

For additional information about performance events, directions, tours, and parking, please call the ticket office, 217/351-1076.

Donations of clothing, hats, jewelry, shoes, and accessories are appreciated for use in our theatre productions. Please call 217/351-1499.

Upcoming Events

Parkland Percussion Ensemble

December 13 8 p.m.

Winter Concert

Parkland Community Band

December 17 8 p.m.

The Messiah

December 18, 19 8 p.m.

Sorta Gone With The Wind

Sweet Adelines, Inc.

C-U Chapter

January 9 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.